

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 3, 5 and 9.

The claims now have the lip panel attached to the bottom of the working surface panel about half way between the front and rear portions of the working surface panel to add structural support to the working surface panel in the middle thereof. Further the claim 1 now recites that the only two points of contact with the working surface are at the lower front edge of the working surface panel and the edge of the support panel near the junction of the elevation panel and the support panel.

Amended claim 1 also has friction tabs at the point of contact with the support surface when the device is folded in triangular fashion. This is to encourage immobility of the device when in use.

In the prior office action the examiner stated that Borke had a “friction means (44, col. 6 line 24) provided on the lower front edge of the support panel and supporting surfaces of the support panel”.

After reviewing Borke it states that reference number 44 is to a fastener not to a friction means.

At col. 6 line 24 the Borke states there may be a non-skid material on surface 33. This would aid the device from slipping on the surface. In Borke the entire surface 33 is on a support surface such as a table top. The applicant does not use a non-skid material on the entire surface of a panel. The applicant uses friction pads 28 and only uses the pads at the points where the device engages the support surface at the front and back of the device. Further it should be noted that since the friction pads are on the lower sheet of the working panel near the front edge thereof and on the upper sheet of the support panel, then when the sheet is laid out flat there is a friction tab on either side (top or bottom) to prevent the sheet from moving when placed on a flat surface. This is a feature not found in any of the prior art.

Since the combination of having the support surface engaging portion at the front of the working surface panel and the rear of the support panel, and having the friction tabs only in those positions which engage the support surface is unique, it is not an obvious combination of

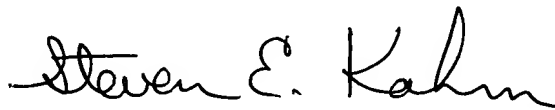
elements found in the prior art.

Further, having the friction pads on the upper sheet of the working panel and the bottom sheet of the support panel when the device is unfolded is unique and unobvious. It prevents sliding when a flat sheet laid down either face up or face down. No other patents found have this feature; therefore it is believed that the claims as amended are unobvious and allowable.

Reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven E. Kahm". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment After Final in response to the Official Action of June 19, 2003, in application Serial No. 09/847,480 of inventor, Suzan Hardy, filed May 2, 2001, for "FOLDABLE SUPPORT DEVICE" is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 19, 2003.

Anna Lemke

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On Behalf of Steven E. Kahm

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